

REMARKS

Claims 15-19 and 26-36 are pending.

Claims 15-19, 27-32 and 33-36 are rejected under 356 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullaney, U.S. Patent No. 5,917,484 in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner admits that Mullaney fails to teach the option having a same appearance regardless of the display language currently displayed but asserts that Applicant's specification at pg. 3, lines 5-11 discloses such a feature and that it would have been obvious to include the option in the system of Mullaney because it provides users with an easier way to recognize the language selection option to display the language selection screen by having the option with the same appearance regardless of the display language currently selected.

Applicant submits that the specification does not disclose an option having a same appearance regardless of the display language currently selected. The portion of the specification cited to by the Examiner is a discussion of Unexamined Patent Application No. JP-A-6-75732. Applicant discloses that this application allows a user a choice between English and Japanese as the display language and that the language change screen always displays both "English" and "NIHONNGO" as optional items for selecting English or Japanese respectively regardless of which language is currently set up. The specification goes on to disclose that, according to this application, "all items on the screen which allows the user to set up the language change screen are displayed in the selected language, so that it is difficult to switch to the language change screen for a user who does not understand the language currently set up." This portion of the disclosure makes it clear that the prior art discussed in the specification does not actually teach or suggest "means for displaying a second screen with an option on the display unit, the option having a same appearance regardless of the display language currently displayed, wherein the first screen is displayed when the option is designated on the second screen."

According to claim 15, the first screen displays a plurality of selectable language options for selecting a display language and the first screen is displayed when the option, which has the same appearance regardless of the display language currently selected, is designated on the second screen. As made clear by the specification, the admitted prior art suffers from the disadvantage that all items on the screen which allow the user to set up the language change screen (i.e., switch to the first screen) are displayed in the selected language. Thus, the admitted prior art does not teach or suggest that which the Examiner asserts.

Claims 16-19 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Claims 27 and 30 recite substantially the same feature discussed above in connection with claim 15, and thus are allowable for the same reasons. Claims 28, 29, 31 and 32 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 33 recites that the option has the same appearance regardless of the display language selected. Since none of the cited art teaches or suggests this feature, either alone or in combination, claim 33 should be allowed. Claims 34-36 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullaney in view of Kusmierczyk, U.S. Patent No. 5,828,992. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 recites “a dedicated key switch provided outside of the display unit, wherein the display language selection screen is directly displayed on the display unit when the dedicated key switch is operated, the dedicated key switch being used only for displaying the display language selecting screen on the display unit.”

The Examiner admits that Mullaney fails to teach the claimed dedicated key switch, but Kusmierczyk teaches this feature at col. 2, lines 58-67. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Kusmierczyk discloses that the function keys F1 to F10 can be used for selecting various status and control features (col. 2, lines 54-55). Kusmierczyk discloses that the function key F3

allows the operator to switch back and forth between the English and Russian text displays (col. 2, lines 58-60). Thus, Kusmierczyk does not disclose that the dedicated key switch is used only for displaying the display language selecting screen on the display unit. Kusmierczyk merely uses the F3 key to toggle between two languages, but does not display a language selecting screen. Thus, the combination of Mullaney and Kusmierczyk fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 26. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 3257720151.

Dated: January 10, 2006

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